



The Pulpit Rock

The Nahant Village Church, 27 Cliff Street, PO Box 77, Nahant, MA 01908
*An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ
where everyone is welcome*

2025

Scripture Readings

May 4 - Third Sunday of Easter/Communion

with Rev. Patricia

Acts 9:1-6,

May 11 -Fourth Sunday of Easter/Mother's Day

with Rev. Patricia

Acts 9:36-43

May 18 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

With Rusty Chadwick

Rev. 21:1-6

May 25 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

TBA

Acts 16:9-15

Nahant Community Breakfast

Friday, May 2, 8 a.m.

Trustees

Tuesday, May 13, 7 p.m.

Church Council

Monday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.

Caregivers Group

Tuesday, May 20, 11 a.m.



Dear Village Church Friends:



I write these words to my good friends at the Village Church. My six months as the "bridge pastor" have come to an end. I need to tell you that I have

enjoyed my time as your pastor. I have been thoroughly enriched in my life learning your names and listening to your stories. I have genuinely appreciated your willingness to accept my leadership and my small attempts at a caring pastoral presence. Thanks for being the strong people on Cliff Street in Nahant and please keep it up. Now some post-Easter thoughts.

The author, Henri Nouwen, wrote a book entitled, "*Our Greatest Gift, A Meditation on Dying and Caring.*" Many of you know some of the Nouwen story. Born in Holland in a family of 4 children. He responded to the call to ministry and was ordained a diocesan priest in 1957. He eventually spent ten years as a professor at Yale in the 1970's and then still later at Harvard. In 1985 he spent a sabbatical year at L'Arche, an international movement of communities that welcomed people with disabilities. He never returned to Harvard and in 1996 he suffered a heart attack and died. Over his years he wrote some 20 volumes of devotional books.

Our Greatest Gift stretches us to consider death as a positive gift-giving

experience ... part of our spiritual journey ... that is not an end.

Is death something so terrible and absurd that we are better off not thinking or talking about it? Is death such an undesirable part of our existence that we are better off acting as if it were not real? Is death such an absolute end of all our thoughts and actions that we simply cannot face it? Or is it possible to befriend our dying gradually and live open to it, trusting that we have nothing to fear? Can we wait for our death as a friend who wants to welcome us home?
(prologue)

Later in the book he writes: *As I experience that gift, I know in a new way what it means to care for the dying. It means to connect them with the many who are dying or have died and to let them discover the intimate bonds that reach far beyond the boundaries of our short lives.* (p. 74)

In his conclusion Nouwen moves us through Easter: "*The resurrection is God's way of revealing to us that nothing that belongs to God will ever go to waste. What belongs to God will never get lost.... The resurrection doesn't answer any of our common questions about life after death such as 'How will it be? How will it look?' But it does reveal to us that love is stronger than death. God's love for us, our love for each other, and our love for those who lived before and who will live after us is not just a quickly passing experience, but a reality transcending all time and space.*" (p. 109)

and space.” (p. 109)

Easter and its message for all of life is still there ... and we still struggle with finding meaning in life and in death. Yes, we will continue to have hopes for our living and fear for our dying.

Grace and Peace,



VILLAGE RINGER NEWS

Elisabeth Foukal and Lisa Haley played the Wondrous Cross on Palm Sunday, accompanied by guest organist Carol Dixon. This involved two people ringing a total of 20 bells which can only be done using a sophisticated weaving technique. Thank you, Elisabeth and Lisa for the countless hours you spent perfecting this technique.

In the past couple of months, the bell choir has also started to experiment with the bell tree where the bells are suspended on a pole and rung with mallet. The bell tree is typically used for solo pieces.

Four of the Village Ringers have started to prepare for the New England Handbell Festival that will take place in Worcester in late June. It promises to be an amazing event with 400 ringers from all over New England coming together for workshops and concerts. The Village Ringer participants are: Paula Cole, Elisabeth Foukal, Lisa Haley and Marrit Hastings. Anyone interested in going to the concert can contact Marrit for details.



Village Ringers
Nori Morgensteing, Amy
Dow,
Marritt Hastings and
Robin deStefano played
for the Ash Wednesday
service in March.

MEET OUR NEW MUSICIAN

Welcome Christina Bray!

Please take time to welcome our new pianist/organist/music director Christina Bray!

Christina Maria Bray, née Guibas, received her Masters in piano performance along with the Mary Ellis Smith prize in 2013 from the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Throughout undergraduate and graduate school, her primary studies were with the late Ludmilla Lifson (former faculty of the Leningrad State Conservatory in Saint Petersburg, Russia). Post-graduate school, Bray continued her studies briefly with Tufts Music Faculty and Mozarteum graduate Thomas Stumpf.

Bray taught privately for a decade, and as a member of the piano faculty at the Franklin School for the Performing Arts from 2014 through 2017. She has served on numerous boards including the New England Piano Teachers Association as their 20th and 21st century recital chair, the Bridge at 211 in Salem, and her current seat as Vice President of the Paul Madore Chorale, where she is also the pianist for the group. She regularly collaborates with musicians throughout greater Boston, and substitutes for church musicians in various local churches. In addition to music, Christina works as a full-time real estate broker. Christina lives in Manchester-by-the-Sea with her husband Preston and her cat Sebo.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND MISSIONS

NAHANT COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Friday May 2, 8 a.m.



Town Administrator Tony Barletta will be the featured speaker at the May 2 breakfast. Tony will discuss the Nahant budget and provide an overview of the upcoming Town Meeting. He will go over the various warrants that will be voted on at the meeting, which is scheduled for Saturday May 17th. And he is always most generous, taking questions and concerns, so come armed with them!

The breakfast begins at 8 a.m. The speaker gets going around 8:15 a.m. and as always all are welcome to this community event.

Also as always, transportation of elders may be arranged a few days in advance of the breakfast by calling the Tiffany Room at 781-581-7557. Our sincere thanks to the Council on Aging and its staff for providing this service.

So come join us for good food, great information and awesome camaraderie.



ANNUAL MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Moderator has scheduled our Annual Meeting for **May 25, 2025**. The meeting will take place immediately following the worship service. Please note that this will be an in-person meeting only. Voting is restricted to members of the church.

Please be there to help us conduct the business of the church — Your church!

Also as always, transportation of elders may be arranged a few days in advance of the breakfast by calling the Tiffany Room at 781-581-7557. Our sincere thanks to the Council on Aging and its staff for providing this service.

So come join us for good food, great information and awesome camaraderie.



A little Maundy Thursday assist from Rachel!
Thanks for being so tall!



Karen Falat — 5
Linda Hall — 6
Herb Motley — 8
Edie Richardson — 10
Jen McCarthy — 12
Margaret Alexander — 22
Linda Jenkins — 26



A quiet scene from Maundy Thursday.

NEWS FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

With Rev. Dave VanArsdale having completed his time with us and a Designated Term Pastor not yet identified, the Church Council is actively working to fill the pulpit for the summer.

For the month of May, we are pleased to announce that Rev. Patricia Long will be with us on May 4th and May 11th. We will also welcome back our friend Rusty Chadwick on May 18th. The service on May 25th remains open at this time.

Additionally, we have received interest from a couple of individuals who have showed interest in being with us for the entire summer. We have just begun the process of exploring this option.

We will keep you informed as we make further progress.

NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES

We have much to be grateful for at the Nahant Village Church, starting with the extended bridge ministry of Reverend Dave VanArsdale.

As I have mentioned before, Dave has been a Godsend to our church. His guidance, based on extensive experience in the ministry, is much appreciated.

We are also grateful for the long service on the Board of Trustees and Buildings and Grounds Committee of Cal Hastings and Amy Dow, who will both be stepping aside after the Annual Meeting at the end of May.

Finally, we are grateful for the dedicated service of Marrit Nauta Hastings as our Treasurer. Marrit would not be able to step aside without some one to take her place. After prayerful consideration Beth Walls has agreed to be our next Treasurer. Beth has been attending most of our meetings in the past year, and she has experience with this work. Marrit and Beth have already started working on the transition.

Rex Antrim, Chair

SAYING & SINGING THANKS & FAREWELL TO REV. DAVE



A song from Ute and a spectacular cake from Roz made our send off for Dave so much more special. Thanks for everything Dave. You were just what we needed when we needed it!



WHAT'S UP SEARCH COMMITTEE?

We are working hard!

We are currently in the process of identifying a Designated Term Pastor. Recently, we received four new profiles, bringing our total to ten. Each profile serves as a minister's resume, providing us with detailed information about their qualifications and experience.

Our Search Team is diligently reviewing these profiles. We have scheduled Zoom interviews with two of the four new candidates and are still discerning the suitability of the remaining two. We remain hopeful that the right minister will be sent to us soon.

We will keep you updated on our progress.

ICYMI: Sunrise Service 2025



ZOOM WORSHIP SERVICES

We **Zoom** all of our worship services live each Sunday, so if you can't attend in person, you are welcome to join us on Zoom. Meeting ID 869 1204 8062 Password: 123456.

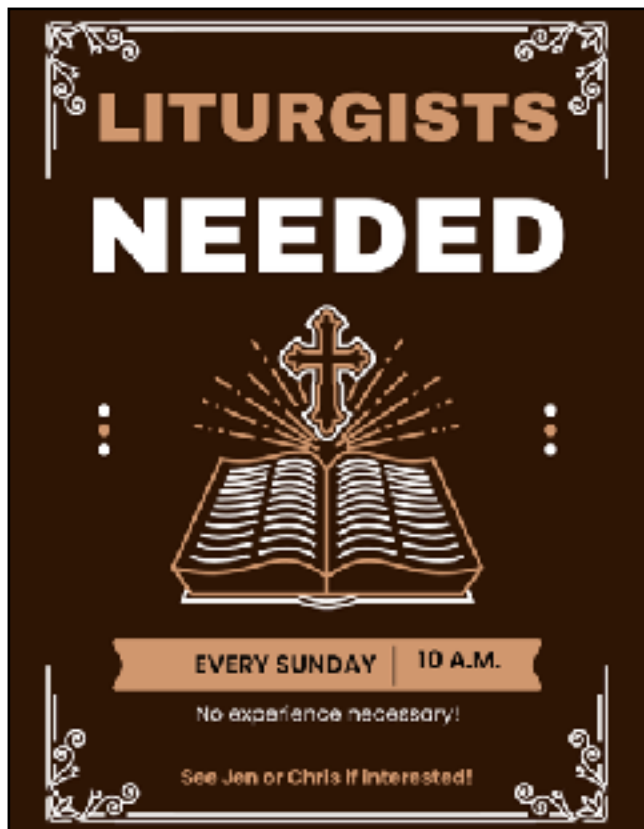
We also record each service. You can visit our website www.nahantvillagechurch.org for all of the YouTube links. To navigate to the archive of services, click on **WORSHIP** under the blue banner, then click on On Line Worship Services. You can also find services posted on the church's Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/TheNahantVillageChurch>

WANT TO FEEL PART OF THE SERVICE

BE A READER!!

If you'd like to participate in the worship service consider being a liturgist one Sunday. No experience necessary! You lead the responsive prayers, read the scripture lesson and announce the hymns. It's easy and rewarding! Contact Jen at 781-316-7309 or Chris at 781-581-1202 if you're interested. Or simply reach out to us at church.

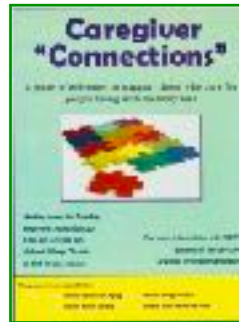


CAREGIVER "CONNECTIONS"

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Nahant Village Church - Swansburg Hall



The Caregiver Connections Support Group was formed to provide individuals who care for those with memory problems a forum to share experiences and to support each other. This Support Group meets monthly on the **third Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.** The Caregiver Support Group is sponsored by

Nahant COA, and Nahant Village Church. An experienced representative from Greater Lynn Senior Services will also participate. Please share this information with anyone who might benefit from participating. Contact Mary Miner of the Nahant COA at mminer@nahant.org for more information.



Image by lifeforstock on Freepik

WOULD YOU LIKE A VISIT FROM NVC?

If you would like a visit for any reason just give a shout, or a call!

781-581-1202

Rev. Dave would love to drop by
& we'd love to see you so don't hesitate to call!





NAHANT VILLAGE CHURCH
27 Cliff Street, PO Box 77, Nahant, MA

CONTACT INFORMATION

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday - 9 a.m. - noon/1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. - noon.

Phone messages are checked regularly.

In case of an emergency contact Jen McCarthy at
781-316-7309

Church – 781-581-1202

Church Council

Jen McCarthy - edwarthy@hotmail.com
or 781-316-7309
Moderator

Rex Antrim - rexantrim@comcast.net
or 781-856-1067
Trustee

Chris Stevens - cjs_ros2@verizon.net
or 781-254-6827 / 781-581-1202
Religious Ed/Office Manager/Sexton

Marrit Hastings - calhast@hotmail.com)
or 781-581-5691- Treasurer

Beth Walls - bethmo81@gmail.com
Deacon

Robin deStefano - rdestef@verizon.net
Clerk

Buildings and Grounds

Cal Hastings - calhast@hotmail.com
or 781-581-5691)

Amy Dow - ikors92@yahoo.com
617-378-8520

Compassionate Care - 781-581-1202 _____
secretary@nahantvillagechurh.org

You are invited to ...

Sunday Worship Service in the Chapel
Sundays @10 a.m.

or to Live Zoom Sunday Service

Live Zoom Service

Meeting ID: 869 1204 8062

Passcode: 123456

Dial by your location

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

A link is available on the NVC Home page.

Caregiver “Connections”

Third Tuesday of the month

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

NVC - Swansburg Hall

Village Ringers

Mondays @ 5 p.m.

Swansburg Hall

Trustees

Second Tuesday of each month, 7 p.m.

NVC Library

Church Council

Third Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m.

NVC Library

Membership

If you'd like to become a member of the church
contact Rev. Dave at
pastorvillagechurch@gmail.com or Jen McCarthy
at 781-316-7309